

REMARKS

The claims are revised to remove multiple dependencies, thereby placing all claims in condition for examination on the merits and reducing the total amount of official fees required for this application. Certain claims are also revised to accord with U.S. practice. These revisions are not submitted to enlarge or diminish the scope of the claims.

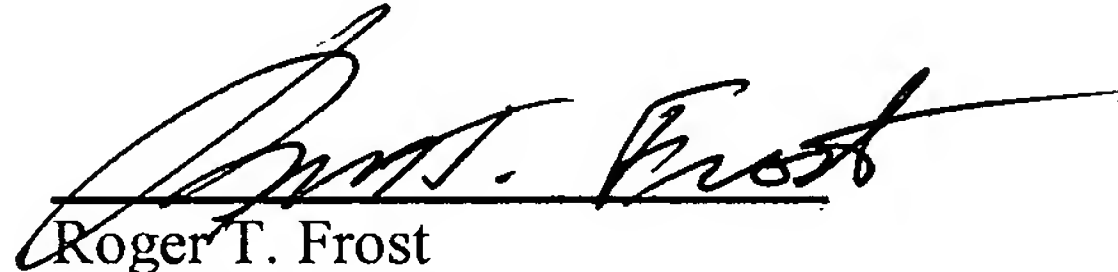
The abstract is revised in accordance with the USPTO requirement concerning the maximum length of abstracts.

The applicant requests entry of these amendments before calculating the total amount of filing fee required for the application.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD

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